

The BUZZ WORD

Volume 6
Issue 14
June 2023



Joe was intrigued with the “True Patriot” displayed in the VVH Town Square and would improvise songs about the horse and his deep connection to it. In true VVH fashion, employees Tammy and Christina worked together to arrange a meeting for Joe and Rita Dee, the artist.

Rita was thrilled to meet a Veteran who had connected with the True Patriot and stated the purpose for the two-year project was to raise awareness of the sacrifices made by our soldiers in service to our freedom and safety. It contains words and messages from students who helped with the project which represents beauty and grace but also strength, courage and nobility of service members and their steeds.

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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JUNE:

17th Father's Day Car Show
24th VVA Picnic
25th Fishing Derby



JULY

5th Eagle's Band Concert-6:30 pm
15th Annual Vet's Ride, AL Post 13 Riders
16th VFW Picnic

From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson



To our Veterans, Members, Family and Friends,

During 2022, VVH enrolled with the DAISY Foundation as a way to recognize outstanding members of our nursing staff. More information on this program can be found at: [About DAISY | DAISY Foundation](#). This year we received nominations for the following nursing staff members:

Kayla Perkins – 2 nominations	Elise LaBrake
Laurie Dix – 2 nominations	Marjah Toomey
Mary Cicirello	Shannyn MacVicar
Marianne Burnham	Jamie Sherman

A committee, including VVH staff and a Veteran, reviewed all the nominations and decided on our first DAISY Award Winner, Kayla Perkins, LNA. Kayla received two nominations which included the following:

“Kayla gets to know the Vets so well that they love her, and she can help anyone with the care and needs of all Vets on A-wing. She works alongside anyone readily with no complaints. She always gives a great report with the next shift and if she has had the time or forgets something she will say she did not have time or forgot. If a Vet needs something she is right on it and she has also bought Vets snacks when they have asked for them.”



Kayla was described in the following manner by using the PETALS principles:

- P – She always shows deep concerns for all residents on American.*
- E – She feels the resident’s pain and listens to them.*
- T – She is always a team player and helps everyone she works with.*
- A – She is always there to lend a hand to whomever needs help.*
- L – She loves all her residents. She is a kind of spirited person. She always goes above and beyond for all her residents. One of the Veterans was having an “off” night. She sat with him as he was calling out her name. She was there for him when he wanted her.*

Please join me in congratulating all our nominees and Kayla Perkins as our first DAISY Award Winner.

Take Care

Melissa



Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



To Our Veterans' Home Families:

May 14th to May 20th, we celebrated National Skilled Nursing Care Week. The theme was "Cultivating Kindness". You may have noticed the decorations around the building, or the staff dressed a little "odd" during the week! I am proud to work with the staff here at the VVH, largely in part due to their overwhelming compassion and kindness. The small acts of kindness that occur here every day is one of the things that truly makes this a HOME for those that we serve, rather than another healthcare facility.

Kindness truly is contagious. So much fun was had during this week between the staff, Veterans, members and visitors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every staff member for the kindness that they bring to work every day.

Kindness, much like laughter, is a medicine more powerful than anything science can create!

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO (802) 447-6544

asa.morin@vermont.gov

TO VETERANS, MEMBERS & FAMILIES:

If you have scheduled a medical appointment, please let our friendly Scheduler know.

Contact: **TAMMY SHIELDS** 802.447.6542

Tammy.shields@vermont.gov

**Sara leads 60's Music Trivia..
Do you know the answers?**



Fill in the blank:

When I'm driving in my car and
a man comes on the radio
He's telling me more and more.....

**What is the name of the song?
Who sang it?**



Fill in the blank:

Picture yourself in a boat on a river
With tangerine trees and

**What is the name of the song?
Who sang it?**





THANK YOU

ELKS #567
for the fantastic Veterans' Dinner



Music with Cindy Legge



SPRING: Outside and Ice Cream





On a rainy day in April, Michelle and Paul chaperoned Veterans on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC where they visited the Memorials to Veterans. They also witnessed the solemn Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery. The trip was made possible by the North Country Honor Flight of NY.



Kickball
Exercise and having fun



BRING IT ON

YAHOO!

OUR OWN HERO

June 6, 2023, marks the 79th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Europe that brought about the end of World War II. It is a day remembered and celebrated in this Country, but more so in France where it took place. Many of the most notable events of D-Day are highlighted in TV shows and movies, but there are lesser known but vitally important aspects of the invasion that took place. One of these was performed by a fellow resident here at the Vermont Veterans' Home, Robert F. Machera Sr.

Bob was a 22 year-old Staff Sergeant with the Army's 668th Engineer Company, and like most D-Day participants, he spent his pre-invasion time in England where he would review aerial reconnaissance photographs of the beaches and countryside on the coast of France and determine the most favorable routes of advance for the American forces during the landing and after securing the beaches. He would use the aerial photographs to determine enemy troop concentrations, movements, fortifications and general topographic features of the land and then transform the information into raised-relief maps, three dimensional representations that allowed troops to see exactly what they would face on the beaches and inland. His map-making duties also included decisions on which bridges to destroy that could assist the enemy in their efforts to resupply and wage counter offensives, and which bridges to safeguard that would assist the Allied Forces as they advanced. His maps were considered "Top Secret" and were crucial to the success of the D-Day invasion and the subsequent liberation of France and the rest of Europe.



Robert F. Machera, Sr.



Raised Relief Map Used for D-Day Invasion

Bob landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day + 4 and continued to receive aerial reconnaissance photographs on a daily basis that he would convert into maps to be used by those who were directing the invasion as they fought their way across France and into Germany. The maps were time sensitive and had to be done immediately upon receiving the aerial photographs, and Robert would perform his duties at the front, armed with an M-1 Carbine and standard infantry gear, along with his camera and map-making equipment.



Omaha Beach D-Day +4

He talked fondly of his time in England prior to D-Day, of jumping off an LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel) or better known as a Higgins Boat, and into the water of Omaha Beach, and of the Hedgerows of France that posed such a difficult barrier to the advance of the Allied Forces. He also reminisced about the wonderful people of France and how they loved the American troops, how they “would give us gifts of food and wine and even invite us into their homes.” This affection shown by the French people for the sacrifices of the American forces that fought and died to liberate their country was still there, much to the wonderment of his wife, Josephine, when they visited Normandy 25 years ago.

Born in the Bronx, New York, he resided for many years in Rye, New York and Stamford, Connecticut and traveled daily to New York City where he ran a very successful Creative Advertising business from his 5th Avenue office. He and Josephine recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary and are currently residing here at the Vermont Veterans’ Home.

Robert F. Machera Sr. is a true American hero, one of those affectionately referred to as the greatest generation. When I had finished the interview with Bob for this story, he finished our talk with the words “America is the greatest country on Earth.”

Thank you, Robert F. Machera Sr., for your service to our Country.

Written by: Sargent Lloyd Johnson USMC

Chaplain Setzer's Corner

Generosity and Kindness

There are a great many passages in Scripture which echo this theme: everything good we have is from God. He loves to give. He loves to bless. He loves to show us generosity time and again, and He desires that we reflect His love and openhanded kindness.

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving.

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart”.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Life is short, do all the good you can, whenever you can, for whomever you can.

Chaplain Setzer





VVH



Bowling



Tournament



Thank you!



Michele Burgess, Activities Director, accepts a donation presented at the steak dinner hosted by the Elk's Veteran's Committee. L-R, Bennington Elks Veteran's Committee co-chairs Mike Kinney & Gary Lewis, Michele, Exalted Ruler Greg Pinsonneault.

Photo courtesy of the Bennington Banner.

Thank You!

Melissa Squires, Bar Manger, and Kelly Licata, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 69 presented a check, a donation to the VVH.

Asa, COO, accepts the gift on behalf of the Home.





HAT DAY for NURSING HOME WEEK



SPORTS DAY
AMERICAN WAY
PAJAMA DAY



Moose



Serves up lunch



Caboose



Mother's Day Tea

Hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 Bennington



Thank you to Darlene Cumm, Donna Stone, Ann LeBlanc-Peters, Paula Colbert, Denise Colety, Joyce Gustavson, Mary-Jo Grose, Susan Pleasant, Mary Morrissey, Ellie Hyjek, Lisa Bump, Sandra Sinclair and Edi Prandini for the marvelous event that was enjoyed by so many of the VVH Mothers.



Thanks to Paul Yerke, the ABC Rally (Artists, Battlefields and Covered Bridges) stopped by the VVH to enjoy a picnic lunch and to share their snazzy vehicles with our Veterans before they continued their loop back to Saratoga, NY.

They also made a very generous donation to the Activities Department.



On behalf of the
Veterans and Members,
we sincerely thank the
following for their
generous donations:



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
American Legion Post 69
American Legion Auxiliary 69
MountainOne Bank
Bennington Elks Lodge 567
Susan DiLorenzo
Beverly Adams-Allen
VNA Hospice of the Southwest Region
Artists, Battlefields & Covered Bridges
Car Club
Sacred Heart Middle School:
Outreach Class

In Memory of Danny Pinsonault

Christopher N Beitzel
Randy & Teresa Ameden
David Beckley
Susan N Dorgeloh Revocable Trust
Harned Fowler Auxiliary 6471
Stephen Leach
Michael C. McDevitt
George Williams
Joan M. Jez
Denise & Douglas Beebe
Thomas & Verna Navin
Betty Barrows
Dorothy Cook
Alton & Judith Coolidge
Pauline & Dennis Davison
Lucille & Thomas McGibney
Alvie & Zilda McKinstry
Christine Taylor & Amanda Caballero
Tyler Electric-Security Inc.
Robert & Elizabeth Weinmann
VFW Auxiliary 648—Rutland

In Memory of William Praetorius

Kathleen Praetorius

In Memory of John Galvin Jr.

Dennis & Marcelaine McCarthy

In Memory of Sue Bull

Jeffrey & Melinda Santarcangelo

In Memory of Arthur Charron

Joyce Scribner

In Memory of Joseph Krawczyk

Keith Martin
Joyce Scribner

**VVH Staff Recognition
Years of Service**

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Patricia Parker — 20 years
Cindy Crawford — 6 years

DIETARY

Chanel Smith — 1 year

DIGITAL SERVICES

Scott Betit — 8 years

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

George Dickie — 5 years

FINANCE

Tina Norman — 13 years

NURSING

Donna Richards — 21 years
Patricia Babcock — 16 years
Bobbie-Joe Becker — 12 years
Rachel Starr — 12 years
Jamie Sherman — 5 years
Marie Norfleury — 2 years

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Kelly Hayes — 5 Years



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List (postal)

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523
Email: Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

"Music and Memory" Players

A monetary donation of \$30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member.

Bingo Prizes
Neck Pillows

Fidget Blankets Crafts

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

Please make the check for monetary donations to:

Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

(Please note: due to the generous donations, we no longer need socks or baking goods.)



Due to COVID-19, we are still not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT DVDs due to modern technology of TV's and streaming availability.

We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Please indicate in the memo area of the check to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

Memory Music Player

Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward a paved walkway around the perimeter of the VVH

Wreaths Across America 2023

Each \$15 donation will go towards the purchase of wreaths and ribbons for the 2023 ceremony



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 13

Thank you for your dedication and contributions to the Vermont Veterans' Home and to the Veterans and Members.



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

“FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the Veterans of Vermont and their families”



TWIN DAY

